



State Representative **GILDA Z. JACOBS** D-35th Representative District



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Committees: House Oversight and Operations (Vice Chair); House Television and Oversight; Legislative Council (Vice Chair); House Fiscal Agency Governing Board

Biography: Democrat, of Huntington Woods. Besides representing the 35th House District, which includes Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Berkley, Ferndale and Royal Oak Township, in the 2001-2002 term, Representative Jacobs is the first woman to serve as House Democratic Floor Leader. In this capacity, she coordinates all legislative activity for the House Democratic Caucus and participates in strategy sessions with other members of the House Democratic leadership team. During the 1999-2000 term, Representative Jacobs served as assistant Democratic floor leader. Both leadership positions are elected by members of the House Democratic caucus. Prior to election to the Michigan House, Representative Jacobs was involved in politics at the local level. She served as the chair of the 12th District Democratic Party in 1999, and from 1995 through 1998, she represented the 23rd District on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. During that time she served as the Democratic Caucus Chair (1996, 1997, 1998). Representative Jacobs was also the convener and facilitator of an Oakland County mental health coalition from 1996 to 1998. In addition to serving on various standing committees of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Representative Jacobs was a member of the Substance Abuse Advisory Council, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Council; the Community Development Advisory Council; the Oversight Committee for the evaluation of Haven's Coordinated Approach to Domestic Violence Program; the Communications Task Force; the Area Agency on Aging (Alternate), the Managed Care Task Force, and the Jail Task Force. From 1993 through 1994, Representative Jacobs was Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Huntington Woods, and from 1981 through 1994, she was a member of the Huntington Woods City Commission. She was the first woman ever elected to that board. Professionally, Representative Jacobs was the development director for JARC, a Jewish association for residential care for persons with developmental disabilities. She was an administrative aide to State Senator Doug Ross from 1978 through 1982, and a special education teacher in the Madison School District from 1971 through 1975. Representative Jacobs is affiliated with a number of community organizations, including neighborhood Project (board member); South East Oakland Coalition; Tri-Community Coalition; South Oakland NAACP; Women's Division of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan

Detroit (board member); Huntington Woods Friends of the Library; Huntington Woods Residents Association; Pleasant Ridge Foundation; National Council of Jewish Women; Oakland County Democratic Party (former vice-chair); and the Oakland County Center for Fair Housing. Representative Jacobs has received the Wonder Woman Award from the Women's Survival Center in Pontiac, the Larry Pernick Award from the Michigan Democratic County Commissioners Association, and the Do Something Wonderful for Children Legislative Award from Michigan's Children. She was a fellow at the Browhway Institute for Legislative Development. Elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1998 and reelected in 2000.

